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Message Text

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46
ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 PRS-01

PA-04 USIA-15 SCI-06 EPA-04 DRC-01 /102 W
---------- 001561
R 131445Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3357
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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BEIRUT FOR RCAA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRN BMEP GR
SUBJ: CIVAIR: NEW ATHINAI AIRPORT

REF ATHENS 4717, 7/12/73; A-35 AND A-120

1. IN PRESS CONFERENCE ON MAY 8 GENERAL EDMOND LAITMER NEWLY-APPOINTED (JANUARY 7) GOVERNOR GREEK CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY STATED THAT HIS AGENCY BELIEVES THAT EXISTING AIRPORT AT ELLINIKON MUST MOVE TO NEW SITE WHICH SHOULD MEET FOLLOWING BASIC CRITERIA (1) ACCOMMODATE RAPIDLY GROWING FUTURE AIRCRAFT AND PASSENGER TRAFFIC (2) ALLOW FOR RAPID TRANSIT OF PASSENGERS TO AND FROM AIRPORT (3) ENSURE FLIGHT SAFETY (4) BE FREE OF ENVIRONMENTAL DISTRESS AND NOISE FOR THE POPULATION. NEW SITE WILL BE SELECTED ON BASIS OF SPECIAL SURVEY; HOWEVER GENERAL LAITMER NOTED THAT QUESTION OF AIRPORT SITE FALLS IN GREEK GOVERNMENT'S SPHERE.

2. GENERAL LAITMER'S STATEMENT WAS PROMPTLY FOLLOWED BY STATEMENT ON MAY 9 BY TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER TZAVELLAS. QUOTE STATEMENTS BY CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY GOVERNOR MADE IN YESTERDAY'S PRESS CONFERENCE
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AND PUBLISHED IN DAILY PRESS REFLECT SOLELY HIS PERSONAL

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VIEWS ON QUESTION CENTRAL ATHENS AIRPORT. IN ACCORDANCE
POLICY LAID DOWN BY PREMIER ADAMANTIOS ANDROUTSOPOULOS,
THE GOVERNMENT IS STUDYING THOROUGHLY THIS SERIOUS
PROBLEM WITH THE PUBLIC INTEREST SOLELY IN MIND.
IT WILL SOON ANNOUNCE ITS DECISIONS ON THIS MATTER UNQUOTE.

COMMENT: THIS WOULD APPEAR TO BE ANOTHER NON-EVENT IN LONG
AND TORTURED DELIVERATIONS TOWARD FINDING WAY TO
ACCOMODATE AIR TRAFFIC EXPECTED HERE IN NEXT DECADE. IT
DOES, HOWEVER, REFLECT DIFFERENCE IN VIEWPOINT OF EXPERT
(LAITMER) WHO DIRECTLY CONFRONTED WITH PROBLEM AND
GOVERNMENT (TZAVELLAS) WHICH PRESENTLY ASSIGNS HIGH
PRIORITY TO HOLDING DOWN GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES
AS WELL AS AVERTING EXPROPRIATIONS. TASCA

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, AIRPORTS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATHENS02835
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740117-0045
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740554/aaaabvwj.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ATHENS 4717, 7/12/73; A-35 AND A-120
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 MAY 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <13 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: NEW ATHINAI AIRPORT
TAGS: ETRN, BGEN, GR, (LAITMER, EDMOND)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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